Suddenly the man of held up his hand. whispered, "someone

trained ears detected the stealthy footsteps creeping nd around the hut. The footsed and there was a knock

there stood a man-a man ng back in alarm at the sight rafty countenance of this cuning stranger. But Hernandez

e Welcher," sald Hernandez, . Joey boy, you're welcome." er looked about him and then

e from Inez," he whispered to er, "about the governor's le

#### CHAPTER XXVII.

the destroyer Jackson and

and Inez, "look who's here." ys," said Inez, "do I like a unishe added coyly, with a ard Neal, "and what comes in

ot my note?" queried Annette. it." returned Neal, "but no

are you talking about?" said We are specially invited by

in himself, watching, ever gure swung into the moondred guests or so that clusout the verandas of the disse Neal peered anxiously for

Annette's and as though that were a signal for an onslaught, red eyed and gloating. shadow and another sprang space and Neal from behind. scended over his head with fectiveness of a strait-jacket. the governor himself who nette within the range of arght and from her appointment conlight out beyond

she still talked to the goverindividual with cunning eyes nuating leer stepped up to the the main gate that led to the 's mansion and handed him a

a guest-Miss Hington," be am to wait for an answer." unky nodded, summoned annky, and handed him the note. sky made an inquiry or two. pped directly to the governor ded him the note.

is the young lady here, Franclaimed the governor. took the note to a window

there was somewhat better d opened it. It was written wling, unaccustomed hand what it said

seen scar face. Need you a for identification. We have down. Come with bearer of Excuse scrawl-right hand Hastily.

-Don't drag mother into this. you are. te beckoned to the flunky.

she said, "is the bearer of

unky bowed. "Follow me," he

gate there stood a man waitin hand-a man with cunning insinuating smile.

man bowed. "Out, mademol-

Hardin sent you?" she in

returned.



With a Mighty Roar Dropped Into the Sea.

"Where he said he would wait-by the postern garden gate," returned the Disarmed, she followed this man

into the shadows. In another instant she had reached carriage and an instant later something descended over her head, smoth-

ering her cries-something bound her arms to her side. But the smuggler had been right. Neal was there, bound and speechless-helpless on the bottom of the carriage.

An instant later the vehicle rattled sharply off into the night.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Sponge Diver.

Annette opened wide her eyes. She uttered an exclamation of delight as she saw Neal Hardin.

"Well, we're here," she said. "I should think we were," said Neal He looked about him. Annette was bound firmly to the only chair in the place and he was tied quite as firmly to a stanchion in another corner. The

place was a rude hut. "I see," said Neal, "that we're not

"Obviously not," returned Annette. On the floor between them lay the brute resting but wide eyed with the lash of a whip lying across his shoulders. Ponto, the Mexican, watched

Something happened in a corner. ground and two men struggled up from a passagoway. One of them was Hernandez; the other was the smuggler of Martinique. Hernandez nodded to Neal and to Annette. He took from his pocket a tattered parchment map which he had pasted well to-

'It is the map of the lost Isle of Cinnabar," he said in suave accents. "and I have other evidence besides." He glanced uncertainly toward the brute. "An identifying locket." he went on, "and other things."

What do you expect to do with them" said Annette belligerently. "You are not Annette Hington."

Hernandez smiled-smiled a bit too grim.y. "Perhaps," he said, "I can find some Annette Hington who will do my bidding. At any rate there will hereafter be no Annette Hington who will try to thwart me.'

Neal started. "What do you mean?" he said.

"I mean," returned Hernandez, with a gesture toward the smuggler of Martinique, "that in all parts of the world I am able to find people who do my bidding. This gentleman can do it well. I may as well tell you, children. that you have perhaps an hour to live, perhaps less."

The brute looked up, his eyes glassy, strange. He rubbed a red spot on his arm-the mark left by Hernandez' hypoderiaic needle.

"You are right, Ponto," said Hernaniez, "it was the only way to drug him-Lend me your whip,"

He seized the whip and struck the brute heavily across the shoulders. The brute sprang to his feet, growling in his throat, but he fell back before Hemandez.

Ponto untied a single knot-the

knot that bound Neal to a stanchion. Then at another word the bruts seized Neal, struggling, in his arms, and with him descended through the passageway.

Annette viewed this proceeding with alarm. She struggled flercely.

Five minutes later the brute returned and once more under the stinging lash of the whip seized Annette and bore her below. Hernandez and his two companions followed them

"Ah," said the smuggler to Neal and Annette, "this house has all appointments. This is the swimming pool. my friends. You can swim here for one hour-or less. This is in truth a cavern of death. I hate to do it," he added just before he disappeared. "but needs must when the devil drives."

There was a click as the stone trap dropped into place.

"This is a pretty pickle," exclaimed Neal to Annette.

They were lying on opposite sides of that black pool. "If you can crawl," said Neal, "crawl

for your life," Annette understood. Little by little Neal worked himself along his side of the ledge and Annette along hers. each gradually approaching the other around the circle. Finally their heads

"Careful," said Neal; "close to the wall. Now let me have your hands. Let me unbind you first."

On the surface of the Hernandez and his companions loaded their cases into a cart and drove far to C. H. Trousdale. across the wilderness into a ravine.

"Here," said the man of Martinique, lifting up the cover of a metal box set in the rock, "here is the switch of which I spoke. One turn of the wristpouf-then oblivion."

"I gave them an hour," said Hernandez grimly, "and I keep my word. Let us drink."

On the shore below the cliff at the foot of the forbidding Razor Back a ly overhauled. Best cash offer takes sponge diver disported himself in the it. Apply at Argus Office. 41-tf. water beside his boat, cutting and tearing sponges from their native Then suddenly he forgot the business rude motor. Inquire H. B. Logan. of collecting sponges.

He rose again, empty handed this time, and dived again, peering at something strange and new. Then with downward-slanting strokes he suddenly disappeared. He came up in an instant in almost total darkness, then bebbing on the surface he rubbed his eyes, jabbering excitedly.

"Hey there," cried a voice, "and who

The sponge diver jabbered some more. Well might he jabber. It was a strange sight that confronted him. Two young people were seated almost | Train in darkness on the edge of a black

"How did you get here?" queried

The man for all his jabbering was polyglet. He knew pidgin English and Neal knew how to talk it, so they got along admirably together. Neal told him his story. The man climbed up upon the ledge and listened eagerly. Suddenly he grew excited. It was evident that he knew the reputation of this place.

"You come with me-come right away," he said.

Neal set the fast-waning lantern by Annette's side. "One moment, dear," he said to Annette, "and I will be back

If what he says is true-' In another instant with his hand on the shoulder of the sponge diver. Train Neal was swimming down, down toward the outer opening. As he saw the light filtering in from underneath he gave a gasp that almost choked

In another instant he had returned for Annette, and with her at his side the two swam in the direction that the

diver had taken. The sponge diver, still gesticulating excitedly, hauled them rapidly into his small boat.

"Me row, you row-like the devil." he exclaimed. Neal rowed like the devil, and the

flat-bettomed boat skimmed over the water like mad. Suddenly Annette in the bow extended her right arm. "Look, look, Neal," she exclaimed

for God's sake, look." Neal heard first, then he looked, and as he looked the whole face of that huge cliff behind them thrust itself Pelee," he returned grimly, it's dynainto the air and with a mighty roar mite-if I know anything of dyna-

"It's Mount Pelee," cried Annette,

# Professional, Business, and .: Classified Directory

The Ontario Argus is read by thousands of people-each and every week brings bargain seekers-If you have anything for sale-if you want to loan or borrow-if you want to buy-in fact any thing you want, you can get through the "WANT AD" columns of The Argus-The leading professional and business men will be found in our directory each week.

# Wants

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WESTWARD Leave Oregon Wash. Limited 4:22 a m Huntington Passanger 9:35 a m

Oregon Wash. Express 6:33 p m Fast Mail 6:10 p m EASTWARD Oregon Wash. Limited 2:51 a m Boise Passenger 8:50 a m

6 Oregon Wash. Express 6:33 p m

12:07 p m

OREGON EASTERN BRANCH WESTWARD

Eastern Express

Leave Mixed, daily except Sunday for Riverside 12:20 p m

VALE & BROGAN BRANCH

Leave Mixed Vale and Brogan 10:00 a m Daily except Sunday

Passanger, Vale daily 7:00 p m

WESTWARD

EAST BOUND 140 Mixed, daily except Sunday from Riveride 12:01 p m

Passenger, from Vale 8:40 a m 142 Mixed from Brogan and Vale Daily except

3:30 p m The Homedale train leaves Nyssa at 1:30 p m on Tuesday, Thursday, saturday, returning, arrive at On-

covering her face with her hands, Neal shook his head. "That isn't mite."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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